

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A gear pump ~~which incorporates comprising:~~
a ring gear [(16)] supported for rotation, having an open center region, and having internal teeth projecting into the center region; [(16a),]
a gearwheel [(17)] arranged ~~excentrically~~ eccentrically within the center region of the ring gear [(16)] and incorporating including external teeth [(17a)] intended to engage with the ring gear's gear internal teeth, the gearwheel having a hole through it, the gearwheel having an axial extent; (16a), and
a rotatable shaft (9) incorporating including a portion which extends through [(a)] the hole [(18)] in the gearwheel~~[(,)]~~; while said the portion of the shaft incorporates includes a first surface [(21')] and the gearwheel incorporates includes a second surface [(22')], which the first surface [(21')] and the second surface [(22')] are [(so)] shaped [(as)] to allow transfer of rotary motion from the shaft [(9)] to the gearwheel, and a (17), characterised in that said transfer between the first surface [(21')] and the second surface [(22')] takes place via a region of contact [(a)] which has an axial extent equal to less than half of the gearwheel's gearwheel axial extent [(b)] and which the region is divided by a radial plane [(c)] which extends centrally through the gearwheel [(17)].
2. (Currently Amended) A gear pump according to claim 1, characterised in that said wherein the radial plane [(c)] is located so it divides the region of contact [(a)] into two substantially equal areas.
3. (Currently Amended) A gear pump according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that said first surface (21') is incorporated in further comprising a recess [(21)] in the shaft [(9)] in which the first surface is included.

4. (Currently Amended) A gear pump according to ~~any one of the foregoing claims~~, characterised in that said claim 1, wherein the second surface [[(22')]] is incorporated included in a portion [[(22)]] of the gearwheel [[(17)]] which extends radially inwards in the gearwheel's gearwheel hole [[(18)]].

5. (Currently Amended) A gear pump according to ~~any one of the foregoing claims~~, characterised in that said claim 1, having an open center region, the second surface [[(22')]] has a substantially planar extent in an axial direction and that said the first surface [[(21')]] has a curved extent in an axial direction with a shape such that said and shaped to define the region of contact (a) is constituted.

6. (Currently Amended) A gear pump according to claim 5, characterised in that that wherein the first surface [[(21')]] has a curved extent beyond the region of contact (a) so that causing the distance between the first surface [[(21')]] and the second surface (22') increases to increase in proportion to the distance out from the region of contact [[(a)]].

7. (Currently Amended) A gear pump according to ~~any one of the foregoing claims 1 to 4, characterised in that said claim 1, wherein the first surface [[(21')]] has a planar extent in an axial direction and that said the second surface [[(22')]] has a curved extent in an axial direction with a shape such that said to define the region of contact (a) is constituted.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A gear pump according to claim 7, characterised in that wherein the second surface [[(22')]] has a curved extent beyond the region of contact so that the distance between the first surface [[(21')]] and the second surface [[(22')]] increases in proportion to the distance out from the region of contact.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A hydrodynamic brake gear pump according to claim [[9]] 11, characterised in that wherein the hydrodynamic brake incorporates further comprises a structure with a multiplicity of recesses [[(14)]] for accommodating various components of the brake, [[(15)]], each of which the recesses [[(14)]] has an opening in a substantially common plane [[(A)]], and that the gear pump (15') is intended to be is arranged in one of said the recesses [[(14')]].

11. (New) A hydrodynamic brake comprising a stator with blades, a rotor with blades, and the rotor and stator defining a working space to receive a medium, an inlet and an outlet from the working space; a storage space for the medium and connected to the inlet to the space; and

the gear pump of claim 1 between the working space and the inlet, the pump being operable for transferring medium from the space to the working chamber.